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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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November 2, 1990

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY

Mr. Ken A. Kluksdahl
Tenneco Minerals
P.O. Box 2650
955 North 1300 West #4
St. George, Utah 84770

RE: Goldstrike Mine
Solution Breach Inspection

Dear Mr. Kluksdahl:

On October 26, 1990, Mr. Lyle Stott of my staff met with you and your supervisor, Randy Schessel, to inspect a solution breach on Pad No. 1, which you reported to this office by phone on October 17, 1990.

On October 17, 1990, Tenneco personnel noted fluid flowing from a point on the hillside about 25 feet below Pad No. 1. Chemical analysis revealed that the fluid contained cyanide. The damp soil was observed and it appears that solution had flowed freely approximately 40 feet, before percolating into the ground. Operation of the pad has ceased and a pipe was installed just below the discharge point to intercept solution. Prior to Mr. Stott's arrival, flow from the embankment had ceased and Tenneco personnel discovered solution under the liner near the collection sump. The cause of the solution breach and amount of solution released has not been determined as yet.

In light of the foregoing,

1. A detailed examination of the facility must be conducted as soon as the heap is drained.
2. Please submit your water balance reports so we can evaluate the amount of solution released.
3. A proposal for remediation of the spill areas must be submitted within two weeks from receipt of this letter.
4. Operation on Pad No 1. must not resume until the causes for the breach have been identified and remedied and a written approval is given by this office.

Ken A. Kluksdahl
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In accordance with federal laws and regulations, any spill of more than 10 pounds of sodium cyanide must be immediately reported to the National Response Center at (800) 424-8502, the Local Emergency Planning Committee of the Five County AOG at 673-5438, the State Health Department at 538-6333, and the Division of Oil, Gas & Mining.

A follow-up written report is also required to be sent as soon as possible after the event to the same three agencies. For more detail on what should be included in the written report as well as other requirements of the "Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act", please contact Neil Taylor at 538-6121.

Sincerely,



Don A. Ostler, P.E., Director
Bureau of Water Pollution Control

LWS:rvg

DAO:lws

cc: Mr. Wayne Thomas, District Engineer, St. George
Mr. Wayne Hedberg, DOGM
Mr. Neil Taylor
Mr. Bill Dawson, Southwest Local Health Department

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FILE:GOLDSTRIKE INDUSTRIAL